

He is someone who always remembered that freedom is not free, we paid a tremendous price for it; and he tried to always express his gratitude to all of the men and woman who wore the uniform of the United States military, because he understood had it not been for them, their efforts and their sacrifice, we would not have the privilege of going around bragging about how we live in the freest and most open democracy on the face of the Earth.

It is so fitting that he was buried in Saratoga National Cemetery, which he worked 15 years to produce for the people of upstate New York.

Mr. Speaker, Jerry Solomon was famous for constantly saying "God bless America"; and today, I say may God bless Jerry Solomon.

#### SUPPORT YOUNG-MICA AIRPORT SECURITY BILL

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today we are dealing with airport security, an issue vitally important to the travel and tourism industry and to every American. I want to take a moment to reflect on this chart of the House aviation security plan, backed by the Secretary of Transportation, the former chairman of the Committee on Transportation for the Democratic Party, on this floor, a plan that he supports, President Bush supports, and I think every traveler will find comfort in.

My colleague, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), in a moment will talk a little bit about another bill that exists on the other side of the aisle, or the other Chamber, but let me show you exactly what is involved in our plan.

It covers everything in airport security, from drop-off to transportation to terminal security to tarmac security, and it does so to ensure the American public that they are safe when they board aircraft.

There is going to be a fight and debate today about who should they be, Federal employees or law enforcement employees. My view is this: let us make it safe. In Palm Beach County, the sheriff department's deputized law enforcement officers are well-equipped to, in fact, be the persons to intervene in the baggage screening area. I would welcome that. I would be delighted to have that.

I wish their side would recognize that local flexibility is vitally important in securing our air space. Support President Bush today in his call for aviation security. Support the Young-Mica bill. You will be pleased with the results of passage of that legislation.

#### PROVIDING FEDERAL AVIATION SECURITY

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, those who oppose the aviation security bill which the other body passed 100 to 0 are arguing that the bill would create yet another public employee union. Those who preach the evils of public employees unions ought to remember one thing: the heroes of the World Trade Center disaster, the policemen, the firefighters, were union members, and about 400 of them lost their lives rescuing others.

Public employees do a great job protecting us here in the Capitol, and they can do a great job protecting our constituents at airports. We are at war. Polarizing a debate by criticizing working men and women who devote their lives to serving the public is exactly what we do not need to do. Terrorists look for weak spots. They do not care about unions either.

We cannot wait any longer for airport aviation security. Pass the Senate bill.

#### MAKING AIRPORTS SAFER

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, simply making an airport baggage and passenger screener a Federal employee will not make airports safer. Tougher standards and strict Federal oversight will make airports safer; and that is exactly what this act does, the one we have up today.

The American public needs to regain its confidence in flying. How will they do that if we do not have the ability to discipline or remove screeners who are not performing? How will they regain confidence if we cannot equip personnel with superior technology? And how will they regain that confidence if qualified retired Federal workers, such as Federal marshals, are unable to be hired because they will have to sacrifice their retirement benefits and their health care benefits?

The answer is they will not.

The Secure Transportation for America Act gives the administration the flexibility that they need to have the best possible employees screening passengers and baggage. The American people deserve no less.

#### CHINA AND PAKISTAN HELP TALIBAN

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a Taliban commander said, "China is secretly helping our Taliban government." China has united.

In addition, news reports say that Pakistan is giving weapons to the Taliban. Pakistan has united.

Unbelievable here. China gets \$100 billion a year in trade surplus from

Uncle Sam, and Pakistan is now asking for foreign aid.

Beam me up.

I say it is time for China and Pakistan to stop their tricks and cheating here. I yield back the forked tongues of the lies coming out of China and Pakistan, who are subverting our mission against these terrorists.

#### SUPPORT SECURE TRANSPORTATION ACT FOR AMERICA

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Secure Transportation for America Act. The Good Book tells us if we owe debts, pay debts; if honor, then honor; if respect, then respect.

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I rise today to honor the President of the United States of America and his vision for airport security. As the gentleman from Florida indicated, it is a vision supported by his Transportation Secretary, who chaired the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure as a Democrat in this very institution, and the President's vision is the right vision.

As Robert Poole of the Public Policy Institute wrote recently, while all parts of airports need improving, the biggest hole is to secure areas. The truth is that the Senate bill does absolutely nothing, Mr. Speaker, to control access to secure areas of airport. Caterers, cleaners, refuelers and others who lack security background checks at the Nation's airports are not addressed in the substitute bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to honor the President of the United States, respect his vision for airport security and vote yes on H.R. 3150.

#### OVERHAULING THE AVIATION SECURITY BILL

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, it has been 7 weeks and 2 days since the terrorist attacks, 2 weeks since the Senate passed the aviation security bill 100 to 0. Finally, we can overhaul this failed system. There are three private foreign-owned firms that provide security at most U.S. airports. Their performance is miserable. One is under indictment for having violated its parole from its last criminal conviction.

Now we are going to have a choice today. We could pass the Senate bill and have a bill on the President's desk tonight and begin an overhaul, a major change, put those people out of business, or we can adopt the Republican manager's amendments, which will not only continue these failed private